



Replacing Valley Flood-Damaged Offices in El Portal

What is this project about?

In keeping with actions called for in the *Yosemite Valley Plan*, the National Park Service will construct a new building in El Portal that will replace offices lost or damaged in Yosemite Valley during the 1997 flood. This building will be located adjacent to the existing maintenance/warehouse complex in the National Park Service administration area of El Portal. The new building will provide office space for National Park Service employees who have been relocated out of Yosemite Valley, as specified in the *Yosemite Valley Plan*. Currently, these employees work out of temporary trailers located throughout the maintenance complex.

What will the building look like?

The proposed building will be two stories, about 4,292 square feet each, totaling approximately 8,584 square feet. Construction of the proposed building will be a slab-on-grade, steel frame pre-engineered building with metal panel exterior walls that will include architectural details consistent with the adjacent structures. The building will have a metal roof system standard with the pre-engineered metal building manufacturer, and windows will be tinted to for energy efficiency.

How does this project implement the Yosemite Valley Plan?

To ensure that Yosemite Valley is no longer the base for parkwide operations, the *Yosemite Valley Plan* calls for the removal of unnecessary functions from Yosemite Valley. The El Portal office building project is specifically addressed in the *Yosemite Valley Plan* and is intended to further this goal. By relocating National Park Service functions outside of Yosemite Valley, unnecessary structures can be relocated or removed, therefore contributing to the *General Management Plan* goal of reclaiming Yosemite's priceless natural beauty.

How does this project comply with the Merced River Plan?

According to the *Merced Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan* (Merced River Plan), the El Portal area has been identified as a 3C zone—Park Operation and Administration, which allows for administrative activities, including the relocation of facilities from Yosemite Valley to the El Portal Administration Site. The planned building and associated site improvements are all located within the 3C zone. A site survey was conducted to accurately map the River Protection Overlay specified in the Merced River Plan, and no portion of the project is located within the River Protection Overlay.

What decisions have already been made?

The planned building site in El Portal was addressed in the *Yosemite Valley Plan* and its *Final Environmental Impact Statement* and its subsequent Record of Decision. Yosemite National Park management has decided to proceed with this project as described in the *Yosemite Valley Plan*, and final construction documents are scheduled for completion toward the end of February. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in the fall of 2003 with completion the following winter/spring 2004.

Public Participation

Public comments were received during public scoping in October 2002, and additional input concerning this project was received from El Portal's Planning Advisory Committee in January 2003. Project revisions were incorporated in response to comments received, and the current project design reflects these changes.

Members of the public interested in additional information concerning this project should visit the park web site at www.nps.gov/yose/planning. Requests for information can also be submitted by mail, fax, or email:

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